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Big Sandy River Basin Edition
December 2019



The mission of the Watershed Management Branch is to protect and restore the beneficial uses of the waters of the Commonwealth by managing water quality and quantity, facilitating stewardship and promoting cooperation among stakeholders.

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News

Hello Big Sandy, Little Sandy, and Tygarts!

With the holidays upon us I know that we are all very busy with our work, family, and social agendas. I wanted to share some tips for making your season a little bit greener (and brighter)!

I also wanted to remind everyone to fill out the pre-meeting survey and [doodle poll](#) so that a date, time, and location can be determined in January.

Happy Holidays!

— Michaela

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Curious about the health of your watershed? Check out how Kentucky determines its [Water Quality grades](#) and use the [Kentucky Water Health Portal](#) to look up the health status of waterways near you!

Volunteer Opportunities



Want to learn more about the creek in your backyard? Become a volunteer sampler through the Big Sandy Watershed Watch. The Big Sandy Watershed Watch works to protect, improve and restore the waters of the Tygarts Creek and the Big/Little Sandy River Basins by promoting water quality monitoring, public education and citizen action. Learn more [here](#).

Become a Volunteer Lake Monitor

Kentucky has approximately 440,000 acres of lakes within its borders, containing more than one hundred billion gallons of water. The purpose of Kentucky's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program is to involve citizen scientists in expanding water resource monitoring in Kentucky. To



Big Sandy River Basin Team Meeting

The first basin team meeting will likely occur sometime in the months of February or March, before the busy field and construction seasons begin. I will be sending each member a link to a Doodle Poll to set a date and time and a short survey to determine common interests for the meeting. Please let me know if there are any suggestions for meeting locations that are central to the Big Sandy River Basin. Please [email](#) or call me at (502)782-5282 with any questions, comments, concerns, or if you are interested in joining the basin team. Please fill out the [doodle poll](#) that was sent out and return your pre-meeting surveys via email to me.

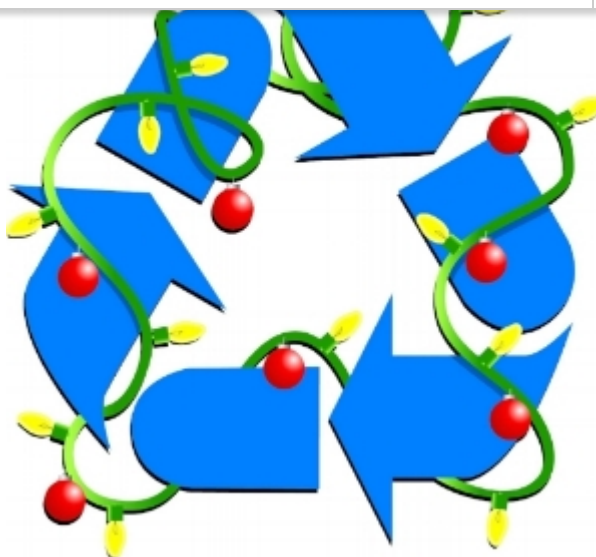
Reducing Holiday Waste



Are you interested in becoming a certified Project WET educator? KAEE and KDOW can bring a workshop to a location near you! Please contact the Kentucky coordinator, [Brittany Wray](#), for more information.

Hotline:

For environmental emergencies such as spills of gas, oil or other substances, contact the Environmental Response Team at 502-564-2380 or 1-800-928-2380



"Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, American household waste increases by more than 25 percent. Trash cans full of holiday food waste, shopping bags, bows and ribbons, packaging, and wrapping paper contribute an additional **1 million tons a week** to our landfills."
- EPA

Reducing our holiday waste not only reduces the amount of garbage making its way to our landfills, but can also lessen the blow of the holiday season on our budgets and help keep holiday waste out of our beautiful streams, rivers, wetlands, and lakes!

Reducing Non-Food Waste

- Reuse ribbons and bows
- Use reusable shopping bags for all of your holiday shopping
- Use cloth tablecloths and napkins
- Recycle delivery boxes and wrapping
- Give experiences (trips, shows, memberships, etc.) rather than stuff
- Buy local gifts that won't have to be shipped as far

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- Recycle old and/or broken holiday lights and electronics at an electronic recycling center
- Donate unwanted clothes, the holidays are a good time to clear out the old and make room for the new!
- Use reusable dishware and cutlery
- Recycle dye, glitter, and other decoration free wrapping paper, throw out the rest

Reducing Food Waste

- Don't buy too much food, only buy what you can eat
- Compost what you can't eat, there are ways to reduce wildlife raids on your compost
- Use aluminum drink cans as opposed to plastic or glass bottles, they are recycled more easily
- Fully load the dishwasher before running and don't leave the water running while you wash dishes

Things to Keep in Mind

- Trash left out anywhere in the watershed can be washed into our streams, lakes, and rivers by runoff
- Most plastics thrown into the recycling bin are not actually recycled. Screw-top bottles, aluminum cans, and cardboard (not paper boxes) are the most recyclable. The rest frequently ends up in a landfill. Recycling that is bagged usually goes straight to the landfill.
- Cloth or woven reusable shopping bags will last longer and are more durable than most plastic reusable bags

Upcoming Events

Big Sandy River Basin Team Meeting February/March 2020

The mission of the Big Sandy River Basin Team is to encourage collaboration and partnership between various organizations and communities to facilitate the long-term restoration and protection of waterways in the Big Sandy, Little Sandy, and Tygarts basins.

The Basin Team meeting will take place sometime in February or March of 2020. A link to a doodle poll and a pre-meeting survey will be sent to each basin team member before December 2019. Please contact [Michaela](#) if you are interested in attending.

Do you have an event you'd like to tell us about? Send an email to the [Big Sandy River Basin Coordinator](#). Also like us on Facebook at [I Love KY Water](#) and to find out about programs throughout the state!



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